

Preserving Bouquets of Flowers.

The best method of preserving cut flowers for a length of time in water, is a point which has been long ago explained or presented, notwithstanding its simplicity. The method commonly recommended is to frequently change the water, but this, of itself, is scarcely of any essential benefit.

The most advantageous mode is to cut off half an inch or an inch of the stem that has been in the water, according to the length of it; this will again open the pores that have become closed with glutinous matter that has exuded from the stem when first cut, and the pores being stopped very often before the stem is placed in the water, frequently occasions rapid withering. By cutting the bottom of the stem, the moisture immediately begins to flow upward, and the branch soon recovers its vigor. The stems of flowers are also frequently kept in water until the bottom begins to rot and decay; these if cut above, that will also recover again, and, when placed in fresh water, will frequently continue fresh for some time afterwards.

Flowers bought in shops and markets are often dried at the bottom, before restored again to the water, the bottoms of the stems of these should therefore always be cut before immersed in water again. It is necessary that the water in which flowers are placed be fresh, but not too cold; if allowed to stand a few hours before being used, it is better suited for the purpose.

Government Swindling.—The Memphis Avalanche of the 27th, has the following:—"A government agent is in the city at present for the purpose of collecting sufficient evidence against certain contractors for Uncle Sam, who purchased some horses and mules at this point two months ago, for Government use."

It is shown that the Treasury has been defrauded of a considerable amount of money in the transaction of the said contractors. It seems that they used blank vouchers, and whenever the purchase of a horse or a mule was made the shrewd contractor would get the seller's name to the blank before the price paid for the animal was written upon the voucher.

In returning the blank to the Treasurer, the amount was invariably entered a third greater than had been actually paid to the owners of the stock purchased, thus swindling the Government out of a large sum of money.

We are glad to see this kind of swindling has been caught up with, and hope that the defrauding agent may shortly find himself a caged bird.

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By Saturday Evening's Mail.

PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.—The Presbyterian Synod of Virginia assembled in this place on Wednesday last. There were many persons present on the day preceding, who spent the morning and evening in devotional exercises.

At 12 o'clock on Wednesday, the Synod was called to order by the late Moderator, Rev. Mr. M. Osburne, of Prince Edward. After the roll call, to which about a hundred members responded, Mr. Osburne delivered the annual sermon.

The Synod elected as Moderator for the present Synodical year, the Rev. Samuel D. Steward, of Christiansburg; and as Clerks, the Rev. Wm. J. Hoge, of Hamsden Sydney College, and F. Johnson, esq., of Roanoke. The town of Christiansburg was selected as the place of meeting for the next annual session of the Synod.

On Wednesday, at 12 o'clock, the Rev. James Ramsey of Lynchburg, preached by appointment of Synod a sermon upon the office and duties of deacons. A greater portion of yesterday was occupied in the discussion of Foreign Missions, and in listening to the reports of progress of the Church in different parts of the State.

THE CIRCUIT COURT.—The fall term of the Circuit Court commenced on Monday the 1st inst. Judge Thompson presiding. The case of the Commonwealth vs. Stanley, for horse-stealing, came up first. After examination of the witnesses, the case was submitted without argument, and the jury retired.

They soon returned, bringing in a verdict of guilty. His punishment was fixed at two years and a half in the State's Prison. On Wednesday, the trial of the Rev. Daniel Dawson, for the alleged murder of Wm. Mollen on the night of the 12th of Dec. 1857, came up.

After much difficulty, nineteen jurors were obtained from the county, and the Sheriff was ordered to procure twenty-five more from Albemarle.—*Standard Indicator.*

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LOCAL ITEMS.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.—The annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association, which was postponed on Tuesday night last, on account of the inclemency of the weather, will be held to-night at the Lyceum Hall. Let the Hall be filled, and let there be a generous response to the call of this benevolent Association.

THE CANAL.—The receipts for tolls at the Georgetown Collector's Office, of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, for the last week, amounts to \$3,531.51, as follows: ascending trade, \$325.85; descending \$3,205.66. We hear of no damage having been done to the canal by the recent heavy rains. There is an ample supply of water at every point for the largest boats.

175TH REGIMENT VIRGINIA MILITIA.—Election of Company Officers.—Pursuant to notice, an election was held on Saturday last, at the Court House of this county, for a Captain and First and Second Lieutenants for each Company District, with the following result:

Company No. 1.—Captain Wm. S. Moore. 1st Lieut. Chas. W. Neale. 2d " Wm. W. Howard.

Company No. 2.—Captain J. N. Stevens. 1st Lieut. John P. Clarke. 2d " John T. Hart.

Company No. 3.—Captain Chas. S. Price. 1st Lieut. Chas. A. Baldwin. 2d " Emanuel Francis.

Company No. 4.—Captain Samuel Gedney. 1st Lieut. William J. Davis. 2d " Chas. F. Cox.

Company No. 5.—Captain Joseph Williams. 1st Lieut. R. W. Robinson. 2d " Samuel Grigg.

Company No. 6.—Captain H. Carter Dorsey. 1st Lieut. John A. Milburn. 2d " J. Gibson Peck.

Company No. 7.—Captain Ulan W. Barker. 1st Lieut. Wm. H. Smith. 2d " Wm. Jenkins.

The election of officers for the two County Companies, was postponed until to-day, when it will be held in front of the Court House, at 12 o'clock.

CIRCUIT COURT.—The Circuit Court for this county, November term, commences its session to-day.

ST. MARY'S HALL.—The brick work on this fine edifice having been nearly completed, workmen are now engaged in roofing it, and by Christmas, the main hall will probably be ready for the occupancy of the Young Catholics' Friend Society, and St. Mary's Sunday School. It will be 60 feet long, by 27 feet wide, with a ceiling 15 feet high, with ventilation on the most improved plan. A full description of the entire building, will be given upon its completion.

THE FAIR AT AMERICAN HALL.—We learn that the proceeds of the Fair, recently held by the ladies of St. Mary's Church in